**Function-level lock for mobile device security**

One embodiment provides an electronic mobile device comprising one or more mobile applications. Each mobile application has at least one corresponding graphical user interface (GUI) screen for display on the mobile device. The mobile device further comprises a security system. For each mobile application, the security system maintains corresponding security data, wherein the corresponding security data represents one or more secure components of a corresponding GUI screen. The security system generates a GUI screen for a mobile application based on corresponding security data, wherein each secure component of the UI screen is locked. User access to a locked component of the GUI screen is permitted only after successful user verification.

**FIG. 4**
TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] One or more embodiments relate generally to security systems for mobile devices, and in particular a function-level lock for mobile device security.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Mobile devices such as smart phones, tablets and laptop computers are easy to steal or lose. Mobile device security is important to prevent unauthorized access to information (e.g., personal information) stored on a mobile device. A device lock is an example security solution that locks a display screen of a mobile device when the mobile device enters the sleep mode, and prompts a user to enter access information (e.g., a personal identification number (PIN), a password, or a pattern) to unlock the display screen when the user awakens the mobile device from the sleep mode. An application lock is another example security solution that locks a mobile application on a mobile device when a user signs out of the mobile application or after an idle period of time, and prompts the user to enter access information to unlock the mobile application when the user attempts to access the mobile application. These example security solutions, however, typically interfere with user experience.

SUMMARY

[0003] One embodiment provides an electronic mobile device comprising one or more mobile applications. Each mobile application has at least one corresponding graphical user interface (GUI) screen for display on the mobile device. The mobile device further comprises a security system. For each mobile application, the security system maintains corresponding security data, wherein the corresponding security data represents one or more secure components of a corresponding GUI screen. The security system generates a GUI screen for a mobile application based on corresponding security data, wherein each secure component of the UI screen is locked. User access to a locked component of the GUI screen is permitted only after successful user verification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] These and other aspects and advantages of one or more embodiments will become apparent from the following detailed description, which, when taken in conjunction with the drawings, illustrate by way of example the principles of one or more embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0005] For a fuller understanding of the nature and advantages of one or more embodiments, as well as a preferred mode of use, reference should be made to the following detailed description read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates an example network.

FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an example mobile device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3A illustrates an example graphical user interface (GUI) of a mobile app, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3B illustrates an example function-level lock of the mobile app in FIG. 3A, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of an example security system, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates different areas of the GUI screen in FIG. 3A, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates an example a GUI component hierarchy tree, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 7 illustrates example user interaction for defining one or more security areas 310, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8A illustrates an example display prompting a user to enter a PIN, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8B illustrates an example display prompting a user to enter a pattern.

FIG. 9 illustrates an example flow chart for registering user-defined security points, in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 10 illustrates an example flow chart for implementing a function-level lock, in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a high level block diagram showing an information processing system comprising a computer system useful for implementing an embodiment of the present invention.
One embodiment provides an electronic mobile device comprising one or more mobile applications. Each mobile application has at least one corresponding graphical user interface (GUI) screen for display on the mobile device. The mobile device further comprises a security system. For each mobile application, the security system maintains corresponding security data, wherein the corresponding security data represents one or more secure components of a corresponding GUI screen. The security system generates a GUI screen for a mobile application based on corresponding security data, wherein each secure component of the UI screen is locked. User access to a locked component of the GUI screen is permitted only after successful user verification.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example network 10. The network 10 comprises at least one electronic mobile device 30. A mobile device 30 may be a mobile phone (e.g., a smart phone), a tablet, a laptop computer, etc. The network 10 further comprises at least one application distribution platform 40. The application distribution platform 40 maintains one or more mobile applications ("mobile apps") 50 for distribution. A mobile app 50 comprises a software application configured to run on a mobile device 30. A user 20 may download one or more mobile applications 50 from an application distribution platform 40 to a mobile device 30 over a connection (e.g., a wireless connection, a wired connection, or a combination of the two). A mobile device 30 may also be pre-loaded with one or more mobile apps 50.

FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an example mobile device 30, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The mobile device 30 comprises a display 60 for displaying content, a memory unit 70 for maintaining data, a network interface module 65 for enabling data exchange with an application distribution platform 40, a content distributor and/or another mobile device 30 via a network (e.g., cellular network, IP network), and a user interface module 75 for generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which a user 20 may control the mobile device 30 (e.g., controlling content playback on the mobile device 30).

In one embodiment, the mobile device 30 has at least two operating modes, such as an awake mode and a low-power sleep mode. In the awake mode, the mobile device 30 is fully operational. In the sleep mode, the mobile device 30 is in a low power mode.

The mobile device 30 further comprises an accelerometer sampling unit 85 and an idle classifier unit 80. The sampling unit 85 obtains samples of sensor data relating to current user activity from one or more sensors of the mobile device 30. A mobile device 30 may include sensors such as an image capture device for capturing video and/or images, an audio capture device for capturing audio, a magnetometer for measuring magnetic fields, a gyroscope for measuring orientation, and a light sensor for measuring lighting conditions of the ambient environment surrounding the mobile device 30, etc. The idle classifier unit 80 utilizes a small window of sensor sample data to determine whether the mobile device 30 should be placed in sleep mode or the awake mode. The mobile device 30 may further comprise a timer unit 90 for switching the mobile device 30 between the sleep mode and the awake mode.

FIG. 3A illustrates an example graphical user interface (GUI) 600 of a mobile app 50, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. A mobile app 50 has a corresponding GUI 600 for display on a display 60 of a mobile device 30. A user 20 of the mobile device 30 may control the mobile app 50 using the GUI 600 when the user 20 is using the mobile app 50. The GUI 600 may comprise at least one GUI screen 610. Each GUI screen 610 comprises a root window 410 including one or more GUI components 300, such as a list view 420 and a button 430. Each GUI component 300 of a root window 410 has a corresponding application function when activated by a user 20.

FIG. 3A includes a first list view 420 (LIST VIEW 1) positioned within a top half of the root window 410, and a second list view 420 (LIST VIEW 2) positioned within a bottom half of the root window 410. The first list view 420 comprises multiple buttons 430. Each button 430 triggers a specific application function when activated by a user 20 using the mobile app 50. Specifically, a first button 430A ("photo button") enables photo-sharing, a second button 430B ("status button") enables updating a user status, and a third button 430C ("check-in button") enables logging a current user location. The second list view 420 also has a corresponding application function. As shown in FIG. 3A, the second list view 420 provides a timeline of comments and/or user status updates from people with
FIG. 3B illustrates an example function-level lock of the mobile app in FIG. 3A, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. As described in detail later herein, the security system 200 allows a user 20 to define one or more security areas 310 within a GUI screen 410 of a mobile app 50. A security area 310 may include one or more GUI components 300.

When a user 20 utilizes a mobile app 50 before providing access information to verify/authenticate his/her identity, the security system 200 prevents user access to an application function/content provided by the blocked GUI component 300. The user 20, however, can still access/view GUI components 300 not within a security area 310 of the mobile app 50 without having to provide access information. A blocked/locked GUI component 300 is unlocked to permit user access only when the user 20 provides access information that successfully verifies/authenticates his/her identity.

For example, a user may define the photo button 430A, the status button 430B and the second list view 420 as security areas 310. As shown in FIG. 3B, the security system 200 blocks/locks each GUI component 300 within a security area 310 of the mobile app 50. Blocking/locking a GUI component 300 prevents user access to an application function/content provided by a GUI component 300 within a blurred security area 310 until the user 20 verifies/authenticates his/her identity.

FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of an example security system 200, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. In one embodiment, the security system 200 has at least two operating modes: a configuration mode and a usage mode. In the configuration mode, a user 20 may define one or more security areas 310 for a particular mobile app 50. The user 20 may also define one or more existing security areas 310 (i.e., previously defined) as security areas 310 for a particular mobile app 50.

In the usage mode, the security system 200 monitors usage of one or more mobile apps 50, and blocks/locks any defined security areas 310. The security system 200 initiates a corresponding security action (e.g., activating a display prompting for access information) when a user 20 of the mobile device 30 interacts with a blocked/locked security area 310 (e.g., touching or clicking on the blocked/locked security area 310).

The security system 200 comprises a GUI system 210, a security manager module 250 and one or more databases 270. The GUI system 210 comprises a screen module 220 and a recommendations module 230. The screen module 220 is configured to receive a request to draw a GUI screen 610, and to draw the requested GUI screen 610 on the display 60 of the mobile device 30. An app developer need not be concerned with modifying a mobile app 50 to handle actions associated with the drawing of GUI screens 610 on the display 60 of the mobile device 30.

When the security system 200 receives a request to draw a GUI screen 610 while in the configuration mode, the requested GUI screen 610 drawn allows a user 20 to define new security areas 310 or un-define any existing security areas 310. The security system 200 may identify existing security areas 310 on the requested GUI screen 610 using one or more visual effects (e.g., highlighting the border of each existing security area 310 using a different color) or animation effects (e.g., dynamically and continuously changing the transparency of each existing security area 310 between 100% transparency and opaque).

When the security system 200 receives a request to draw a GUI screen 610 while in the usage mode, the requested GUI screen 610 drawn includes blocked/locked security areas 310. The recommendations module 230 comprises a GUI component hierarchy module 240 configured to generate a GUI component hierarchy tree 500 for a GUI screen 610 or an area within a GUI screen 610 ("GUI screen sub-area"). The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 comprises multiple nodes, wherein each node corresponds to a GUI component 300 within a GUI screen 610/GUI screen sub-area, and wherein the nodes are arranged based on locations of the GUI components 300 within the GUI screen 610/GUI screen sub-area. The screen module 220 draws a requested GUI screen 610 based on a GUI component hierarchy tree 500 generated for the requested GUI screen 610.

In the configuration mode, a user 20 may interact with a specific GUI screen sub-area to define or un-define one or more security areas 310 within the specific GUI screen sub-area. For example, the user 20 may define a particular GUI component 300 as a security area 310 by interacting with the GUI component 300 (e.g., tapping/clicking the GUI component 300). If a desired security area 310 is a GUI sub-component, the user 20 may specifically define the GUI sub-component as a security area 310 by tapping/clicking on the GUI sub-component multiple times. Therefore, a user 20 can traverse up and down nodes of a GUI component hierarchy tree 500 using multiple taps/clicks.

In the configuration mode, the recommendations module 230 may recommend security areas 310 to the user 20 by highlighting GUI components 300 within a requested GUI screen 610. When the user 20 interacts with a different GUI screen sub-area of the requested GUI screen 610, the GUI component hierarchy 240 generates a GUI component hierarchy tree 500 for the GUI screen sub-area, and recommends security areas 310 within the GUI screen sub-area based on the tree 500.

In the configuration mode, when the user 20 is finished defining one or more security areas 310 within an area of the requested GUI screen 610, the GUI system 210 forwards the user defined security areas 310 and
corresponding GUI component hierarchy trees 500 to the security manager 250. The security manager 250 comprises a fingerprints module 260 for generating a corresponding fingerprint for each user defined security area 310. The security system 200 uses fingerprints to identify security areas 310.

[0028] In one embodiment, a fingerprint for a security area 310 is based on at least the following information: a specific component ID that corresponds to a GUI component 300 within the security area 310, and an application ID that corresponds to the mobile app 50 including the security area 310. The security manager 250 registers the defined security areas 310 by generating a corresponding fingerprint for each security area 310. The security manager 250 then stores the fingerprints for the defined security areas 310 in a database 270 corresponding to the mobile app 50. In one embodiment, each mobile app 50 has a corresponding database 270 for maintaining fingerprints identifying security areas 310 within the mobile app 50. When the security areas 310 are registered, the security manager 250 stores a notification to the GUI system 210 which in turn notifies the user 20 that the security areas 310 have been successfully defined.

[0029] In the usage mode, the GUI system 210 generates a GUI component hierarchy tree 500 for a requested GUI screen 610 of a mobile app 50 when the GUI system 210 receives a request to draw the requested GUI screen 610. The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 is forwarded to the security manager 250. The security manager 250 retrieves fingerprints for defined security areas 310 for the requested GUI screen 610 from a database 270 corresponding to the mobile app 50. The security manager 250 then compares the fingerprints retrieved against the GUI component hierarchy tree 500 to determine whether the requested GUI screen 610 includes any security areas 310. The security manager 250 forwards to the GUI system 210 component IDs for each GUI component 300 within each security area 310, if any. If the requested GUI screen 610 includes at least one security area 310, the GUI system 210 draws the requested GUI screen 610 with at least one blocked/locked security area 310. A user 20 cannot access an application function/content provided by a GUI component 300 within a blocked/locked security area 310 until the user 20 verifies/authenticates his/her identity.

[0030] FIG. 5 illustrates different GUI screen sub-areas of the GUI screen 610 in FIG. 3A, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The root window 410 of the GUI screen 610 may be divided into multiple GUI screen sub-areas, such as a first area 410A including the first list view 420, and a second area 410B including the second list view 420. When the user interacts with a particular GUI screen sub-area of the root window 410, the GUI system 200 generates a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree 500 for the particular GUI screen sub-area.

[0031] FIG. 6 illustrates an example GUI component hierarchy tree 500, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 in FIG. 6 corresponds to the area 410A of the root window 410 shown in FIG. 5. The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 comprises a parent node 510 representing the root window 410, and a child node 520 representing the first list view 420 included the first area 410A. The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 further comprises multiple leaf nodes corresponding to the buttons 430 included in the first list view 410, such as a first leaf node 530A representing the photo button 430A, a second leaf node 530B representing the status button 430B, and a third leaf node 530C representing the check-in button 430C.

[0032] FIG. 7 illustrates example user interaction for defining one or more security areas 310, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. When the security system 200 is in the configuration mode, a user 20 may define a particular GUI component 300 within the first area 410A as a security area 310 by touching/tapping the GUI component hierarchy tree 500. When a user 20 touches/taps the GUI component hierarchy tree 500, the GUI component 300 and all sub-components of the GUI component 300, if any, are selected as the desired security area 310. A GUI component hierarchy tree 500 for the first area 410A is generated. The GUI component hierarchy tree 500 includes nodes for all the selected components. The user 20 may traverse up the nodes of the GUI component hierarchy tree 500 using multiple taps. For example, when the user 20 touches/taps the GUI component 300 again, a parent of the GUI component 300 and all sub-components of the parent are selected as the desired security area 310.

[0033] As shown in FIG. 7, when the user 20 first touches/taps the photo button 430A as represented by action bubble 1, only the photo button 430A is selected as the desired security area 310 (the photo button 430A does not have any sub-components). When the user 20 touches/taps the photo button 430A again as represented by action bubble 2, the first list view 420 ("LIST VIEW 1") and all GUI components within the first list view 420 (i.e., the photo button 430A, the status button 430B and the check-in button 430C) are selected as the desired security area 310.

[0034] In another embodiment, a user 20 may define a security area 310 by drawing, using touch gesture, a bounding box around all GUI components 300 within the desired security area 310. This allows the user 20 to simultaneously select multiple GUI components 300 as the desired security area 310.

[0035] In one embodiment, a user 20 may download one or more security configurations (e.g., off-the-shelf security configurations) for a particular mobile app 50 from a distribution platform (e.g., an application distribution platform 40). Each security configuration may originate from an app developer or a third party such as another user 20. Each security configuration includes one or more fingerprints representing recommended security areas 310 for a particular mobile app 50. The user 20 may install a security configuration in the security points
An electronic mobile device, comprising:

one or more mobile applications, wherein each mobile application has at least one corresponding graphical user interface (GUI) screen for display on the mobile device; and a security system configured for:

for each mobile application, maintaining corresponding security data, wherein said corresponding security data represents one or more secure components of a corresponding GUI screen; and generating a GUI screen for a mobile application based on corresponding security data, wherein each secure component of said GUI screen is locked, and wherein user access to a locked component of said GUI screen is permitted only after successful user verification.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the security system comprises:

a GUI system for generating a GUI screen for a mobile application based on corresponding security data;
for each mobile application, a corresponding database for maintaining corresponding security data, wherein said corresponding security data comprises one or more fingerprint identifications representing secure components of said mobile application; and a security manager for generating a corresponding fingerprint identification for each secure component of each mobile application.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the security system unlocks a locked component of a GUI screen to permit user access to said locked component only after successful user verification.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the security system prompts a user for user verification only when said user interacts with a locked component of a GUI screen.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the GUI system is further configured for:

- generating a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree for a GUI screen of a mobile application;
- generating and displaying a GUI screen for said mobile application based on said corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree; and
- detecting one or more user-defined security points within said GUI screen by monitoring user interaction with said GUI screen, wherein each security point represents a component of said mobile application to secure.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the security manager is further configured for:

- generating a corresponding fingerprint identification for each user-defined security point within a GUI screen for a mobile application based on a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree; and
- maintaining each fingerprint identification for said mobile application in a database corresponding to said mobile application.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the security manager is further configured for:

- retrieving one or more fingerprint identifications for a mobile application from a database corresponding to said mobile application; and
- determining whether a GUI screen includes one or more security points based on said one or more fingerprint identifications and a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein:

- user access to a non-locked component of said GUI screen is permitted without user verification.

9. A method, comprising:

- maintaining security data for a mobile application, wherein the mobile application has at least one graphical user interface (GUI) screen for display on a mobile device, and wherein the security data represents one or more secure components of the at least one GUI screen; and
- generating a GUI screen for the mobile application based on the security data, wherein each secure component of the GUI screen is locked, and wherein user access to a locked component of the GUI screen is permitted only after successful user verification.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

- generating a corresponding fingerprint identification for each secure component of the mobile application; and
- wherein the security data comprises one or more fingerprint identifications representing secure components of the mobile application.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

- unlocking a locked component of the GUI screen to permit user access to the locked component only after successful user verification.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

- prompting a user for user verification only when the user interacts with a locked component of the GUI screen.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

- generating a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree for a GUI screen of the mobile application;
- generating and displaying the GUI screen based on the corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree; and
- detecting one or more user-defined security points within the GUI screen by monitoring user interaction with the GUI screen, wherein each security point represents a component of the mobile application to secure.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
generating a corresponding fingerprint identification for each user-defined security point within the GUI screen based on the corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree; and maintaining each fingerprint identification in a database corresponding to the mobile application.

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

retrieving one or more fingerprint identifications for the mobile application from a database corresponding to the mobile application; and determining whether a GUI screen includes one or more security points based on the one or more fingerprint identifications and a corresponding GUI component hierarchy tree.
FIG. 1
FIG. 2

- DISPLAY
- NETWORK INTERFACE
- MEMORY
- USER INTERFACE
- IDLE CLASSIFIER UNIT
- ACCELEROMETER
- TIMER
- MOBILE APPLICATION
- SECURITY SYSTEM
FIG. 3A

EXAMPLE GUI SCREEN

List View 1

List View 2

Recent Stories:

---------- and ------------ are now friends.
just now

----------
hemmmmm aku punya jenglot,....ehhh jenggot....
Just now near Surabaya, Indonesia

----------
Now I feel pathetic and now I get i just now
FIG. 3B
FIG. 4
FIG. 5

430A
430B
430C
420
420A
420B
420C
300

LIST VIEW

- Photo
- Status
- Check In

LIST VIEW 1

RECENT STORIES

and 5 others
FAIR @ AI

300
FIG. 8A
FIG. 9

1. Receive a Request to Draw a GUI Screen for a Mobile Application
2. Generate a Corresponding GUI Component Hierarchy Tree
3. Draw the Screen Based on the Tree, and Display the Screen
4. Receive One or More User-Defined Security Points
5. For Each User-Defined Security Point, Generate a Corresponding Fingerprint
6. Store Each Fingerprint for Each User-Defined Security Point in a Database Corresponding to the Mobile Application
Receive a Request to Draw a GUI Screen for a Mobile Application

Generate a Corresponding GUI Component Hierarchy Tree

Retrieve One or More Fingerprints Representing User-Defined Security Points for the Mobile Application From a Database Corresponding to the Mobile Application

Compare the Security Points Against the Tree to Determine Whether the Screen Has Any Security Points

Draw and Display the Screen, Wherein Each GUI Component Representing a Security Point is Blocked
FIG. 11
## DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim</th>
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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